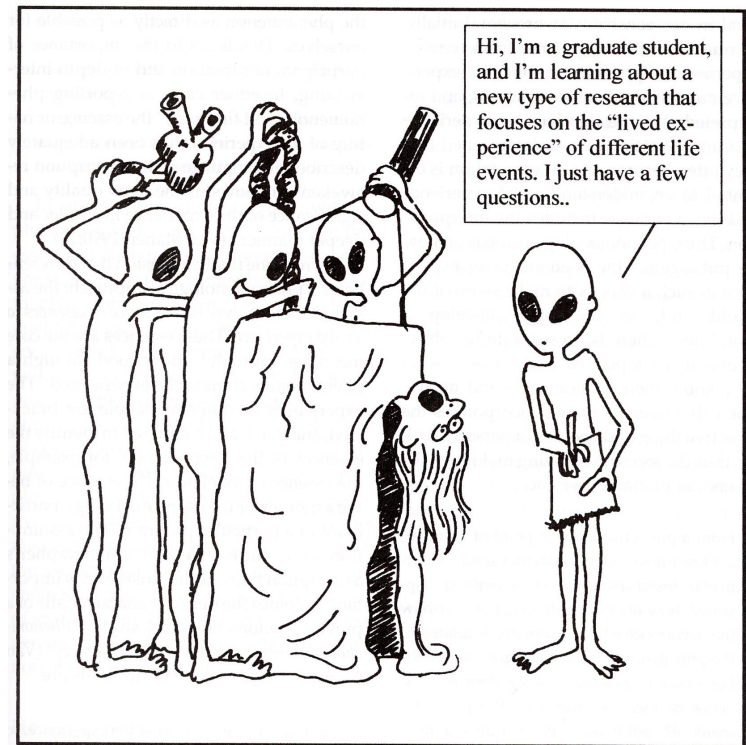


Qualitative Research

Chapter 7

Robert E. Slavin



Phenomenological abduction

Qualitative Research is intended to explore social phenomena by immersing the investigator in the situation for extended periods.

What is Qualitative Research

- Research is concerned with the process rather than simply with outcomes or products.
- Research includes analysis of data.
- Use the natural setting as the direct source of data and the researcher as the key Instrument.
- Research is descriptive.
- Meaning is subjective.
- Researcher is aware of their subjective perspective



Steps of Qualitative Research

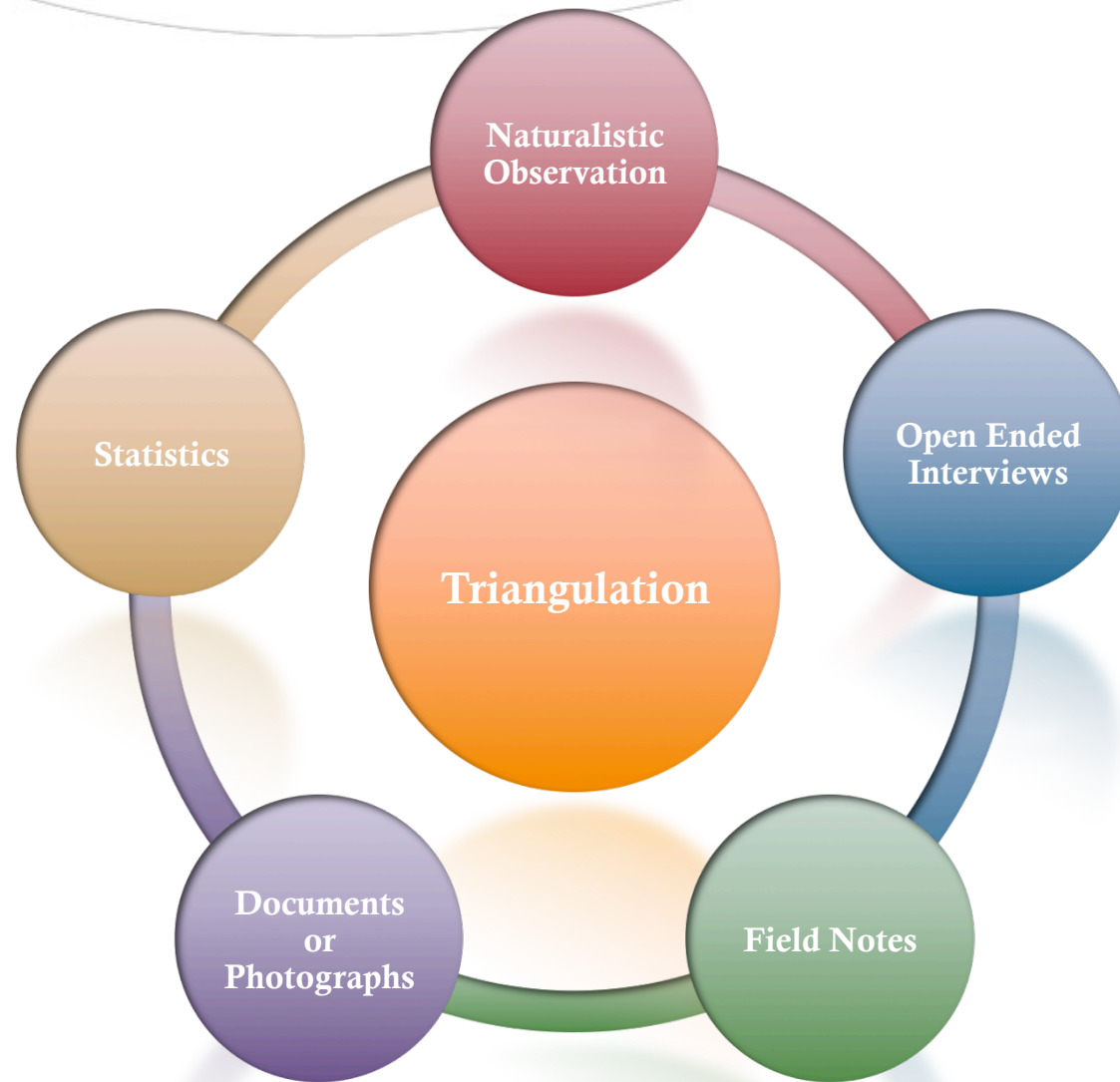
Identify what you will study.

- Example: What are the perceived understandings of being an ESE teacher in a high needs school?
- Remember you don't have a hypothesis yet, you are collecting information on environment, body language, tone, nuances, etc.

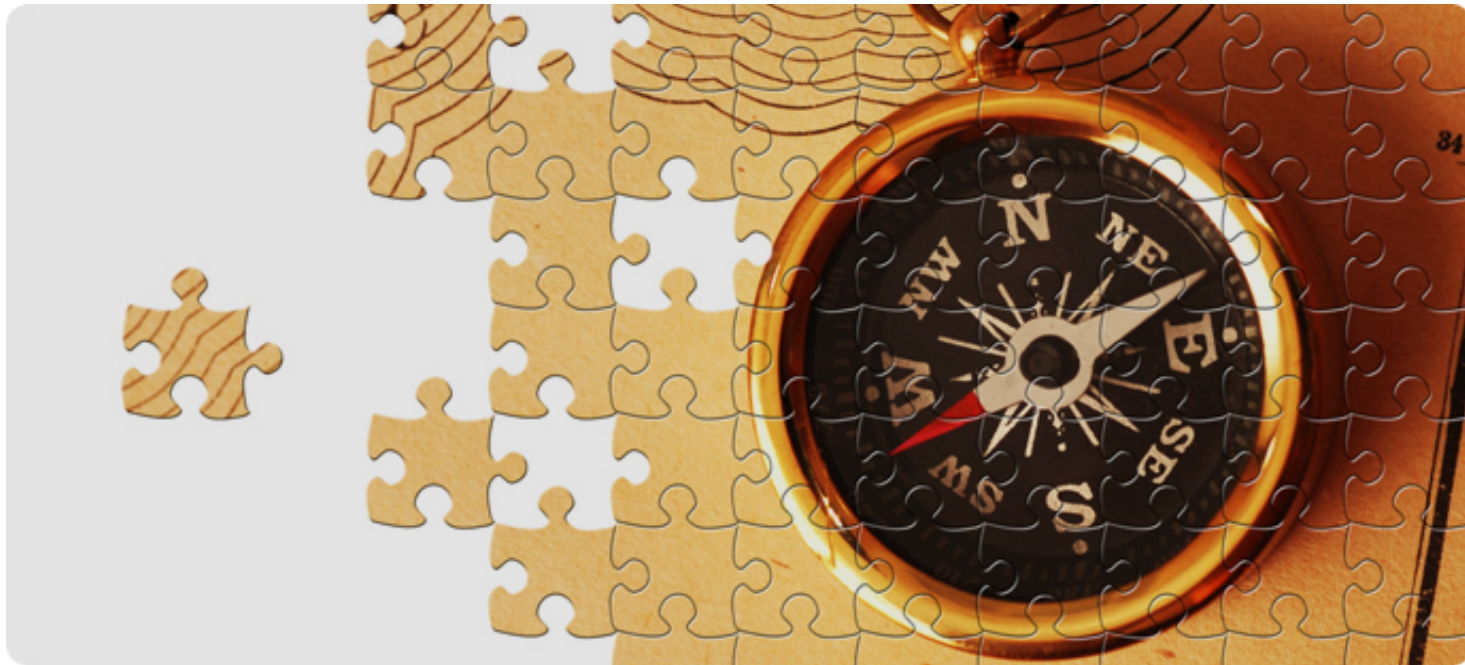
Identify whom you will study.

- Example: Will you be observing a fifth grade class or a ninth grade English class?
- Remember to observe a representative sample of your population.

Data Collection



Generate a Hypothesis



LEVELS OF ANALYSIS OF QUALITATIVE DATA

STATEMENTS AT THE LEVEL OF GRAND THEORY

STATEMENTS AT THE LEVEL OF
MID-RANGE THEORY

MEANING AND MEANING INTERACTIONS
TRACING INTERCONNECTIONS WITH ITEMS
AND PATTERNS

PATTERN

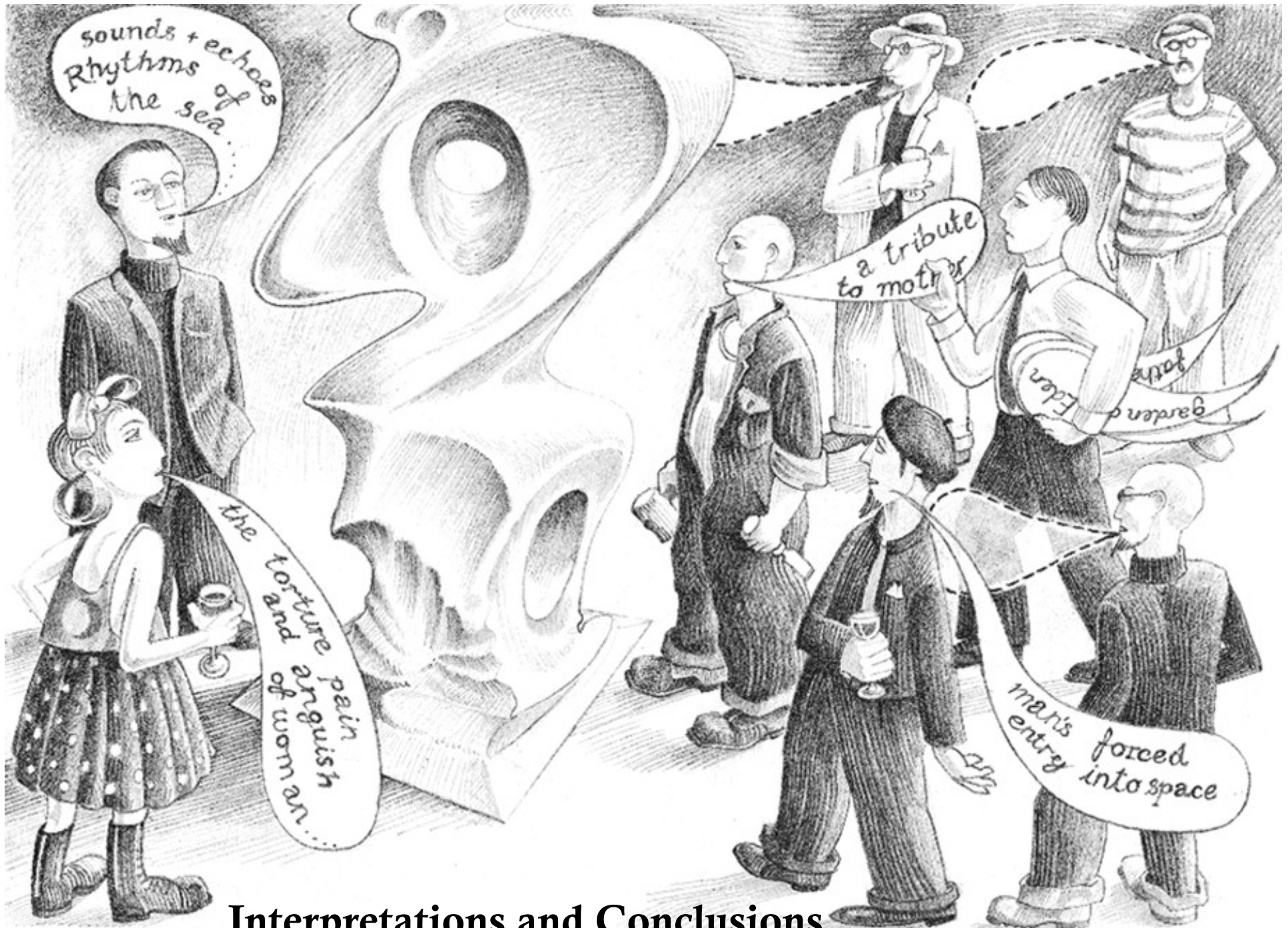
GROUPING ITEMS AND MAKING LINKAGES

DEFINING AND DESCRIBING ITEMS/CONCEPTS

MAKING EMPIRICAL STATEMENTS ABOUT
OBJECTS AND PHENOMENA

(adapted from Borman et al., 1986)

Analyzing the Data: Coding and Creating Themes



Interpretations and Conclusions

Dimensions	Quantitative	Qualitative
Purpose	Prediction and Control	Understanding- seeks why
Reality	Stable- reality is made up of facts and do not change	Dynamic- reality changes with people's perceptions
Viewpoint	Outsider- reality is what quantifiable data indicates.	Insider- reality is what people perceive it to be.
Values	Value free- values can be controlled with appropriate methodological procedures.	Value bound- Values are important and need to be understood during the research process.
Focus	Particularistic- selected, predefined variables are studied.	Holistic- a total or complete picture is sought.
Orientation	Verification- Predetermined hypotheses are investigated.	Discovery- Theories and hypotheses are evolved from data as it is collected.
Data	Objective- data are independent of people's perceptions.	Subjective- Data are perceptions of the subjects in the environment (context).
Instrumentation	Non-human- reconstructed instruments such as surveys, questionnaires, rating scales, tests, etc.	Human- the human person is the primary data collection instrument such as observing and reporting on behavior and expressed feelings.
Conditions	Controlled- Investigations are conducted under controlled conditions.	Naturalistic- Investigations are conducted under natural conditions.
Results	Reliable- the focus is on design and procedures to gain replicable data.	Valid- the focus is on design and procedures to gain rich, real and deep data.

Quantitative

versus

Qualitative